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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Security Council the attached communication that he has received from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

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Annex

Letter dated 26 May 1992 from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency addressed to the Secretary-General

As requested by the President of the Security Council, I am submitting herewith a report on the status of compliance by Iraq with the obligations placed upon it under section C of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and Council resolutions 707 (1991) and 715 (1991) for use in the Council's 60-day review of the sanctions imposed upon Iraq.

(Signed) Hans BLIX

Appendix

Report on the status of compliance by Iraq with the obligations placed upon it under section C of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and resolutions 707 (1991) and 715 (1991)

1. Since the 7 March 1992 report by the Secretary-General on the status of compliance by Iraq with its obligations under Security Council resolutions relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, some developments have occurred which the Secretary-General might wish to bring to the attention of the Security Council.

2. Following the appearance before the Security Council (on 11 and 12 March) of the high-level Iraqi delegation headed by the Deputy Prime Minister, an Iraqi team drawn from members of the Iraqi delegation and headed by the Chairman of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission have met (on 12 and 13 March) the Director General of IAEA and members of the IAEA's Action Team. In the course of the discussions, which touched upon a number of outstanding issues, the Director General referred to several matters in which better cooperation and full compliance of the Iraqi Government were still needed. Such matters included the centrifuge uranium enrichment programme, the nuclear weapon development effort and the provision of full information on the procurement of critical equipment, materials and technical advice. The Director General also underlined that a formal and explicit acceptance by Iraq of Security Council resolutions 707 (1991) and 715 (1991) was essential for starting the implementation of the long-term ongoing monitoring plan.

3. A series of meetings was held in Vienna from 20 to 24 March between Agency officials and an Iraqi technical delegation consisting of representatives of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission and the Al Atheer Centre. The meetings had been requested by the Iraqi authorities in order to clarify the role and functions of the Al Atheer Centre before a decision was finalized by the Agency as to the destruction of the Al Atheer nuclear-weapons-related capabilities.

4. In spite of lengthy and detailed explanations by the Iraqi team regarding the peaceful nature and functions of the Al Atheer Centre, the Agency remained convinced that the technical core of this facility had been designed to accommodate special processes needed for nuclear weapon development and manufacture, including uranium metallurgy. This conclusion was based on the results of inspections, on the detailed examination of documents taken in Iraq and on admissions - previously made by Iraqi experts and confirmed during the meetings - that certain buildings at Al Atheer had been designed to accommodate activities related to nuclear-weapon development.

5. On 25 March IAEA transmitted to Iraq its decision about the destruction of the relevant facilities and equipment at the Al Atheer-Al Hatteen site in conjunction with the eleventh inspection mission and under the supervision of IAEA inspectors.

6. The eleventh inspection mission took place from 7 to 15 April. The detailed report on this mission has been circulated by the Secretary-General to the members of the Security Council in document S/23947. The Iraqi team cooperated actively in the destruction operation, but little or no progress was made as regards procurement, sources of technical advice, centrifuge enrichment and nuclear-weapon studies. Promises were made, however, to provide information by the time of the next inspection mission.

7. In conclusion, although much has been achieved in uncovering the nature and objectives of Iraq's clandestine nuclear programme, a number of actions remain to be taken before IAEA can report to the Security Council that Iraq is in substantial compliance with its obligations.

8. In particular,

(a) Iraq has to accept its obligations under Security Council resolutions 707 (1991) and 715 (1991);

(b) Pursuant to resolution 707 (1991), Iraq has to make a full, final and complete disclosure of all aspects of its nuclear programme, including procurement details, and IAEA has to verify the correctness of the submitted data;

(c) Iraq has to provide, under the plan adopted through resolution 715 (1991), a complete list of equipment and materials used for prohibited purposes and of equipment and materials having dual-use capability;

(d) The operations of removal, destruction and rendering harmless called for in resolution 687 (1991) have to be completed to the full satisfaction of IAEA (however, the delay in the removal of irradiated nuclear fuel from Iraq cannot be attributed to lack of cooperation from the Iraqi side);

(e) Monitoring and verification activities designed to ensure that Iraq does not reacquire capabilities prohibited under resolution 687 (1991) must be initiated and must proceed smoothly.